

11/30/2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to express our concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311. This letter is in reply to the City of Ann Arbor's comment letter filed on November 14th, 2018.

Our public access station CTN ANN ARBOR provides government transparency by broadcasting city meetings. CTN ANN ARBOR is also a voice for citizens to provide information & entertainment to other Ann Arbor residents that is local, relevant & free of advertising.

This service provides a venue for the free exchange of opinion & information that is specific to our community. It is a vehicle of democracy in keeping the members of our community informed & enabled with direct access for communication on local affairs. And, it provides an important basis for cultural enrichment that enlivens the social fabric of our community.

This local presence enables the residents of Ann Arbor to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Mark Fivenson

CC: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner

The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner